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18. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the document is an encrypted document, and wherein the executable module is configured to instruct the computer to decrypt the document if the [predetermined condition is met] document is not expired, and to delete the document if the [predetermined condition is not met] document is expired.
19. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the message is an encrypted message, and wherein the executable module is configured to instruct the computer to decrypt the message if the [predetermined condition is met] message is not expired, and to delete the message if the [predetermined condition is not met] message is expired.

In claim 22, lines 14 and 15, replace "electronic" with - - digital - -.

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes selecting the preselected expiration date by selecting a number of days until expiration of the document.
46. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the creating step includes selecting the preselected expiration date by selecting a month, date, and year.
47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the month, date, and year are selected by user input.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Interview conducted between the undersigned counsel and the Examiner on February 1, 2001. In accordance with MPEP 713.04, applicants provide the following summary of the Interview. The arguments set forth in the Response dated December 13, 2001 were discussed. In particular, applicants arguments regarding the McPhail and Forsen references were discussed in detail. As the substance of the positions discussed is reflected in the Response dated December 13, 2000, applicants will not repeat them herein.

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During the interview, the Examiner indicated that he was inclined to allow the claims if claims 1 and 6 were amended to recite a more narrow range of conditions, as in claim 20. The Examiner expressed concern that a claim broadly reciting a "condition", might read on a virus which simply destroys a document when opened. Applicants are not aware of any such prior art reference, and believe that the claims, without amendment, are patentable over the prior art of record.

Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite allowance of this case, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite "a preselected expiration date." In addition, claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 14, 18, and 19 have been amended to conform to claims 1 and 6, claim 22 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, and dependent claims 45-47 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention. Claim 12 has been canceled as redundant in view of the amendments to claim 6.

The present invention is new, useful, and unobvious. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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